No. 688 Twopence February, 1961

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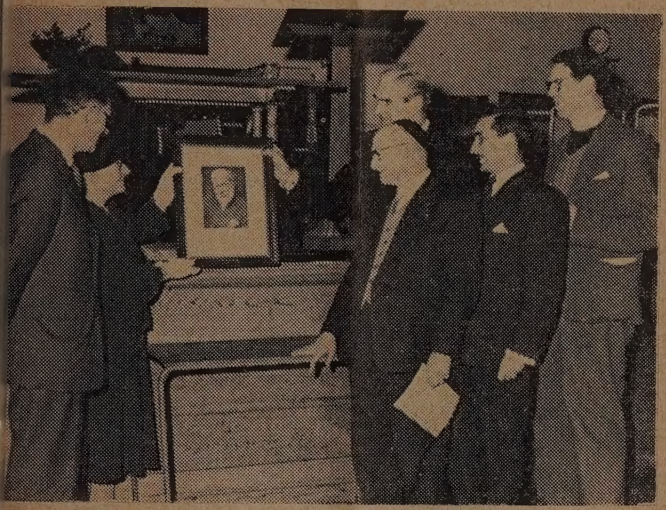
A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS



T. HERFORD EMEMBERED AT STAND

'he year 1960 was the centenary the birth of Robert Travers rford. On December 29, 1960 mbers of Stand Unitarian Chapel d the Whitefield Synagogue held neeting at Stand Girls' Grammar nool to celebrate the centenary. bert T. Herford was minister at and for twenty-nine years. During ; life-time he was one of the eatest Hebrew scholars, and did a eat deal to show Christians the e nature of the debt they owed Judaism. Hence the coming gether of Unitarian Chapel and al synagogue.

Chairman of the meeting was the ev. Paul Guiness, B.Ss., B.D., of the Council of Christians and Jews (an Anglican Vicar). Rabbi Dr. I. Slotki spoke of Dr. Herford's work as a Hebrew scholar and the Rev. F. Kenworthy (Principal of Unitarian College, Manchester) of his work as a Unitarian minister.

Miss Ruth Herford, a daughter of Robert Herford, also spoke about her father, in particular of his friendship with Rabbi Leo Baeck, Chief Rabbi of Berlin during the Hitler dictatorship. The meeting of Herford and Baeck after the war had been a very moving one, and Miss Herford presented a framed photograph of that meeting to the Whitefield Synagogue. In accepting the gift Councillor Leslie Donn, President of Whitefield Hebrew congregation, said the synagogue had raised

a sum of money the interest from which was to be given as an annual prize to a scholar at Stand Chapel, in memory of Dr. Herford.

Pictured in the photograph taken at the meeting are Miss Ruth Herford and Principal Kenworthy (on the left), the Rev. Paul Guiness, Dr. Slotki, Mr. Donn and the Rev. Sydney Knight, Minister of Stand Chapel (on the right).

The photograph appears by courtesy of the "Prestwich and Whitefield Guide."

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The article "No Unitarians Admitted," taken from the North Wales Unitarian News and printed in the January Unitarian has aroused strong comment, mainly as a result of certain errors of fact that the article contained. It is hoped that the following points from the letters of correspondents will prove a useful corrective to any mistaken impressions the article may have made.

1. The World Council of Churches never has admitted Unitarians.

2. The World Council in altering its basis has made no real difference one way or the other to the amount of liberalism allowed. The new wording makes it neither more difficult nor more easy for Unitarians to join.

3. The Youth Assembly Report's reference quoted has nothing to do with the new wording of the basis, but applies to quite another matter, the refusal to have united communion services at conferences and assemblies.

4. Therefore the statement that Unitarians are "thrown out" is irrelevant. They have never been in.

It should be noted that the British Council of Churches (though not some of its affiliated councils such as the new one at Liverpool) always has permitted Unitarian affiliation and still does. When t World Council was formed, deputation of the I.A.R. secretariat went to Switzerland interview the World Council Secr tary, Dr. Visser t'Hooft, to see if co-operation or inclusive poli could be brought about, but t liberal approach was decisively jected from the first.

We have never been "exclude from the World Council; politely "excluded" ourselves in vi of the chosen basis, just as excluded ourselves from the Rom Catholic Church or the Church England. "Unitarian Toleratio does not mean that no body persons has any right to form organisation on terms unacceptab to us. We are definitely unorthodo surely the orthodox have a perfe right to "get-together" on their o chosen terms?

THE EDUCATION OF SYLVESTER LUNGA

By the contribution of sixpen per week per person members of t North Wales Unitarian and Fr Christian Society have taken practical step towards easing ra relations.

The sum thus raised (£25) su ports an African student at secondary school for twelve month This bursary scheme was started s years ago by a number of friends Southern Rhodesia. At the mome thirty-five Africans are being su ported in this way by meetings individuals in this country. Wag for Africans are still very low a families are large, so that it often impossible for parents meet all the school fees, as th still have to find money for cloth and fares. Without some help ma students would be forced to lea school although capable of a high standard of education. But t financial contribution is not t only one, for through letters me bers are hoping to get to kno Sylvester, and to understand som thing of the problems he must me

HERE'S PLENTY OF IME !"

by J. Martin Hall.

s we enter the second month of year it is getting time for us look about for an excuse for e of those good intentions we e not fulfilled. Here we have it ready made for us in Ecclesiastes, pter 11, verse 4:

He that observeth the wind shall sow; and he that regardeth the uds shall not reap."

bserving the wind, Ecclesiastes gests, a sower does not start ing, lest he be caught in a ricane: regarding the clouds, he ects, a reaper does not start oing, for fear of being caught in hunderstorm. Conditions we can ourselves have not been very ourable for us either this year. w much better to put off those d intentions of ours now until spring!

When we think like this, we for- what a small boy did, with only both stones from the brook, inst Goliath; and yet we still isten children David, with pect for him. We forget that, ugh his sight was gone, John ton managed to write Paradise st, and Beethoven wrote his usic, although he himself was not e to hear a note. I have often ought of an unemployed man om I knew in one of our great ms; through sitting up all night h a mustard tin by a slow trickle water from a spring in a time of ere drought, he won the city's ze for the best vegetables grown at year. Despite Ecclesiastes' vice, sometimes good results are hieved, although conditions are d.

It is said that wishing to give his mons some good last-minute vice as they set out for Earth, the evil told them to go to each person d whisper in his ear these words: here's plenty of time! There's enty of time!"

Well! What about those intentions doing good things with which we began the year? Don't bother. It's only February. "There's plenty of time! There's plenty of time!"

CHILDREN'S CORNER

CONVERSATION PIECE

"Well, Raymond?"

"Well, what? Uncle George?"

"What are we going to do this month?"

"Oh, yes. Well, I've noticed this year that Shrove Tuesday and St. Valentine's Day both fall on the same day. Now, we could do something about pancakes and then—what's the matter Uncle George?"

"No, Raymond, I don't think so."

"Don't you think it's a good idea?"

"It's all right, Raymond, but the Corner's seen it before."

"But we've never brought it up before."

"We haven't but the three J's did."

"The three J's? Who're they?"

"John, Jimmy and Janet. They were here before you."

"They weren't. We took over the Corner from the Mayor and the Little People, don't you remember?"

"Yes, I do; and the Mayor and the Little People took it over from the three J's who took it over from Nigel the Newt, Septimus the Snail and Lorimer the Wood-louse—."

"Just a minute Uncle George, my head's going round. How long has this been going on?"

"Quite some time, Raymond. Before you were born, I should say."

"Well, would you believe it? And you say the three J's had this idea a long time ago? You must have a good memory."

"It's not very good; but I remember *that*."

"Uncle George, do you think anybody ever reads the Corner?"

"Yes, don't you?"

"I'm not sure."

"Well, I know many people who do, and we get a letter now and then. Don't you remember one from a kind lady in Leeds a while back?"

"Oh, yes. D'you think they like reading it?"

"Since we've had no complaints, we must assume that the nice people who read it do."

"But the nice people who don't read it, don't know what they're missing, do they, Uncle George?"

"Well, that's a point, Raymond—perhaps they do!"

"Oh!"

And Raymond pondered.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

A well-known figure in Manchester Unitarian circles, Mr. F. H. Wilkinson, is soon to leave the area to retire to Sussex. Mr. Wilkinson came to Manchester in 1927 and joined the congregation at Blackley in 1929. His membership at Blackley has included eleven years as Chairman, twenty years as Calendar Editor, and twenty-two years as Treasurer. Amongst his many services in the broader Unitarian field he has been lay secretary of the Manchester District Association for eleven years.

The Rev. Stanley R. Butler, F.C.A. has accepted an invitation to minister to the congregations at Wilmslow and Styal from April 1961.

The Rev. Albert Smith, minister at Knutsford, was one of ten local people who had part in the B.B.C. Sound Radio Feature "Down Your Way" on December 4th. His contribution was concerned with Mrs. Gaskell's association with Knutsford and the Chapel and comments upon the nature of some of her writings. Warm appreciation of what Mr. Smith said have reached him from all parts of the country.

The Rev. E. D. Davies begins work as London's District Minister in April.

THE NATIONAL UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP PARENTS' CIRCLE

The original idea behind th circle was to link up and have son sort of contact between the childre and the young people of isolate Unitarian families and those havin no close contact with Churc Sunday School or Youth Group. was found impractical with a sma number of children of very varie ages to have a direct contact so start was made by linking up ar parents who so wished and wh were concerned with the ethical ar broadly religious development their children.

Having made a very good begi ning, the circle is eager to add its effectiveness by enlarging i numbers.

The members are linked in grou of six families by means of a fol circulated amongst them. addition to a written contributio from each family—advice require practical hints, book suggestion general discussion of problems, et the folio contains leaflets, gener information, children's own contr butions, and so forth. The ventu is receiving the interest and suppo of the Rev. Dudley Richards of th R.E.Y.D.

Three folios are in circulation ar it is hoped to start a fourth soo The age of children contacte varies from a few months to 15- years old.

The secretary of the Parent Circle is Mrs. Kathleen Arciszewski, of Bourne End Hous Wootton, Bedford, who writes: should be very pleased to hear fro any interested person who feels th he or she could help and/or helped by joining us, whether he isolated from other Unitarians not, and will gladly answer queri on any point of this 'fellowsh within a fellowship!'"

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY

February 5th is International Sunday. The following short extract is taken from the "News Digest" of the International Association for Religious Freedom.

On Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. a group of people of all races and religions are in the habit of meeting in small groups near the Durban Central Gaol, South Africa, for the purpose of praying for those in prison and for the country. Others who are not able to be present in the flesh join their prayers through the use of this prayer. The readers may like to know of this and to share this short vigil of prayer. The prayer is published below.

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

O ruler of the destinies of men and nations, we thank Thee that Thou art on the throne of the universe.

We thank Thee that no matter how dark the clouds above us may seem,

Thy watchful care is over all Thy children.

We thank Thee that all things work together for good for those who love and serve Thee.

We confess our share in the sins of our people, and ask that Thou wilt cleanse our hearts and the hearts of all who dwell within this land of ours.

Deliver us we pray Thee from our sins:

From the refusal to recognise Thine image in our neighbour, from unwillingness to treat all men as our brothers.

From over-carefulness for our own comfort and security, from neglect of the happiness and well-being of others.

From remembrance of the evil deeds of others.

From forgetfulness of our own need for forgiveness. From seeking our own way.

From unwillingness to seek Thy way and to walk in it.

(Picture by courtesy of the "Altrincham Guardian.")

UNUSUAL WEDDING

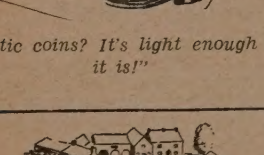
The wedding took place at Hale Barns, Cheshire, on Christmas Eve of the Rev. Glyn J. Pruce, minister of the Chapel and Miss Edna Wilson, formerly a nurse and Lieutenant in the American Air Force.

Because Miss Wilson is coloured the wedding was given an immense amount of publicity, from the front page of the "News of the World" to the columns of the "Sunday Times," and even a mention by the B.B.C. Several newspapers abroad also printed pictures of the wedding. (It has been said that Mr. Pruce deserves a special fee from the G. A. Publicity department!).

Congratulations and good wishes and gifts have come to Mr. and Mrs. Pruce from all over the world —along with a few rude and very unpleasant letters.

The Unitarian joins those who wish Mr. and Mrs. Pruce every happiness.

"Plastic coins? It's light enough as it is!"



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NEWS AND VIEWS

Overseas Churches

MELBOURNE, All Souls' and Seaford Community Church now form a joint pastorate under the ministry of the Rev. Tom Wardle. In recent weeks there has been close co-operation between the two congregations though they are twenty miles apart. Highlights have been a joint dinner at a Melbourne Hotel, fellowship evenings at the Manse and a garden fete and barbecue at Seaford. The Seaford Church has been redecorated by young people associated with the church. Services are now held every Sunday morning. The minister asks that correspondence should be sent to his address at 14, Fourth Street, Parkdale, Victoria, Australia.

After considerable thought and time VANCOUVER has purchased a plot of land upon which to build a church more adequate for its growing membership. The Board of the Church is seriously considering a recommendation to choose an official architect on the basis of a competition between all the architects in the church plus a limited group of local architects experienced in church building.

An informal group of some twenty Unitarians from AUCKLAND greeted Paul Robeson on his arrival in New Zealand late in 1960. Mr. Robeson is an Honorary Member of the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, California.

Home Churches

HEYWOOD and CHESHAM, Bury, have decided to link and are now looking for candidates for this new ministry.

As if the Nightingale Home at Great Hucklow did not offer enough, central heating has been installed. It is now the ideal place for summer and winter.

A banquet for delegates to the G.A. Meetings! This is what has been planned by the hosts for the 1961 meetings, the Manchester District Association. A meal costing about 12s. will be available at Belle

Vue for about 6s., thanks to an M.D.A. subsidy. The meal will be that which falls between the two parts of the Annual Business Meeting, to be held at Brookfield Chapel on the Wednesday of G.A. Week—April 11th to 14th.

A further attraction of the meeting in Manchester will be a coach trip to two old meeting houses and a new church in the Manchester area. The trip will be on Thursday morning. It is not intended to draw delegates away from the Essex Hall lecture but to provide a diversion for the wives or husbands of delegates.

The Annual Men's Service at BROOKFIELD, Manchester, in December was a musical service arranged in conjunction with the Gorton Male Voice Choir.

A children's Church has been started at STAND. It will be in addition to the Sunday School. Mr. Harry Bromley, Sunday School Secretary for thirty years, retired in January due to pressure from other work.

The U.Y.P.L. is holding an international gathering at Great Hucklow on the weekend of April 29th. The theme will probably be "Nationalism and Internationalism—which holds the key?"

Mr. Derek Stirman, of Portsmouth, has become lay minister at NEWPORT, Isle of Wight. He begins his duties at a time when Newport members have just learned that they face the enormous task of restoring their premises at a cost which cannot be less than £3,000.

Three anonymous gifts totalling £350 have been received at PORTSMOUTH in the last few months.

The Old Chapel at WHITBY was practically full on the afternoon of December 18th when the Rev. G. W. Parkinson, the minister, conducted a Carol Service at which four voices very effectively and sincerely presented the seven strands of the Christian tradition, and lit a candle in honour of each strand.

At SCARBOROUGH a record congregation of one hundred attended the International Carol Service. There was a Nativity scene and children were dressed in national or local costume and sang carols.

The Children's Christmas Service at DOB LANE, Manchester, was conducted by Mrs. D. Mills, wife of the minister. Mrs. Mills' story was illustrated by film strips. "Friends of Dob Lane" are being asked, in the years which alternate with a Sale of Work, to take collecting boxes which will be opened at a special gift day. Proceeds will be used for the purpose of beautifying and preserving the fabric of the Chapel.

No social functions are being held in SOUTHPORT'S Church Hall as

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there are no heating arrangements. It is hoped to start little "Get Togethers' at members' residences in the near future.

Seventy old people received gifts from members of BANK STREET, Bolton, as a result of the Christmas Gift Services. Among the recipients were some of the lonely folk being visited by the Bolton Unitarian Social Service.

The Annual International Service arranged by the local branch of the International Friendship League, was held at TAUNTON towards the end of last year. Several nationalities and religious faiths were represented in the large congregation, including Jews and Roman Catholics. Copies of the booklet "A Short History of the Mary Street Chapel," by the minister, the Rev. Willim Millar, are now available at sixpence each. The Chapel Restoration Fund has been granted £300 by the Churches Preservation Trust.

The minister and members of MOSSLEY provided vocal and piano entertainment to members of the local Darby and Joan club in December.

FLOODLIT UNITARIAN BUILDINGS

Auckland and Knutsford are not the first Unitarian Chapels to be floodlit. We have been pleased to receive a letter from Bristol in which it was reported that Lewin's Mead Meeting, Bristol, has been floodlit every night since October 1958.

From the "Guardian," January 2nd, 1961; Lord Altrincham has accepted an invitation (or is it a challenge?) to speak at the evening service in the Unitarian Church, Essex Street, off the Strand, on January 29th.

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